

Remarks

Claims 22-37 and 39-42 are currently pending in this application.

The Office Action rejected claims 22-27, 29-32, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,492); and rejected claims 28 and 33-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al. in view of Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,410,250). The Office Action also objected to claims 38, 39, 41, and 42 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have incorporated the recitations of objected-to claim 38 into independent claims 22, 24, and 25, and canceled claim 38. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 22-37 and 39-42 are patentably distinguishable over Zhang et al. and Brown, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Sections 102(e) and 103(a) rejections of the claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Application No. 10/019,370
Amendment dated February 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2003

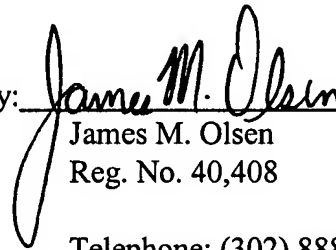
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

Dated: February 24, 2004

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Olsen", is written over a horizontal line.

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